

PRESS RELEASE

REACH: Chambers urge MEPs to allow reason to prevail

Ahead of the European Parliament's plenary vote on REACH on 17 November, EUROCHAMBRES, the Association on European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, urges MEPs to take a stance in favour of SMEs and not burden them by overregulation.

Paul Skehan, Deputy Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, said: *"The overall game is to progress with a realistic approach in favour of health and environment and not stick to fundamentalist demands that endanger jobs and our social fabric. After years of discussion and compromises it is time to get to grips with a workable and effective solution for European SMEs which are the backbone of our economy."*

In Chambers' view the vote should focus on the following main points:

1. Put risk first! – Registration should be based on risk

To overcome some of the excessive costs of registration we urge the MEPs to vote for supplementing the Commission's tonnage thresholds with risk-based factors by permitting use and exposure categories rather than looking at every conceivable use of a substance or at every possible exposure scenario.

2. Reduce data requirements for low volumes! – Requirements for substances produced in low volumes should be reduced

Chambers ask the MEPs to vote for a reduction and simplification of data requirements for substances produced in low volumes (1-10 tonnes), where the risk to humans or the environment is insignificant.

3. Help SMEs! – SMEs need a preferential treatment as they are disproportionately burdened by the regulation

Chambers urge the MEPs to vote for measures to protect and help SMEs and reduce complexity. Specific measures include: reduced length of time for information storage; lower fees; financial assistance; advice and help desks; and support networks.

4. Let the Agency take the lead! – The Central Agency should have a strong role, particularly with respect to evaluation

A harmonised approach in evaluating substances is crucial both in terms of achieving the objectives of the regulations and ensuring that European industry is not placed at a competitive disadvantage.

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